Name of the Bank	No. of shares to be issued	Issue price	Total amount to be collected through IPO
1. Allahabad Bank	10 crore	Rs. 10/-	Rs. 100 crore
2. Bank of Maharashtra	16.948 crore	Rs. 10/-	Rs.169.48 crore
3. Union Bank of India	20 crore	Rs. 15 to Rs. 20/-	Rs. 300 crore to Rs. 400 crore

Second round of VRS in S.B.I.

642. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India is planning for second round of VRS to axe 40 per cent staffers;

(b) whether they are planning for aggressive Information Technology initiative, which if implemented would result in redundancies; if so, the details of this initiative; and

(c) whether this project when implemented in its entirity will improve the efficiency, credibility, speed and would give a great boost to the Indian economy; if so, the details of the benefits that would be derived out of this initiative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) State Bank of India has already introduced internet banking and networked about 500 ATMs across the country. It has plans to network about 500 branches during the year 2002-2003 and fully computerize the functions in Treasury Operations and Asset Liability Management. All this would improve the efficiency of the bank operations. The bank has reported that while technology plan may result in redundancies of staff but as per current estimates of the bank the redundancies would not be of a very high order so as to warrant another Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) as was implemented in 2001. The proposed technology plan when implemented will lead to greater customer satisfaction in terms of handling of his or her transactions, delivering of the Bank's products of various kinds in real time, efficiency in settlement and reconciliation of transactions, reduction in transaction

cost, capability to handle larger volume of customer and transactions on real time basis and thereby improving the Bank's profitability through enlarging the customer base. The bank has not analyzed the impact of the technology plan on the Indian economy as they do not have any data to assess such an impact.

Revival of weak TCOs by IDBI

643. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minsiter of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 502 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th August, 2001 and state the details of the para-wise action taken on the specific action plan prepared by IDBI for revival of all the weak TCOs including NEITCO submitted on restructuring the Technical Consultancy Organizations and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COPMANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): A Rajya Sabha Starred Question No 506 regarding Restructuring of Technical Consultancy Organisations (TCOs) raised by the Hon'able Member was answered on 28-8-2001.

As per the information provided by IDBI, it had commissioned an independent study by Moores Rowland Consulting Pvt. Ltd. (MRCL) to look into the operational and financial difficulties being faced by some of the TCOs. The findings of the study revealed that having regard to the changing scenario in the post-liberalisation era, a thorough restructuring of TCOs would be required for improving their competitiveness and ensuring their long term viability. These findings were discussed in a joint meeting of all the TCOs. However, due to substantial divergence in the views expressed by TCOs, a common approach for tackling the multifarious issues could not emerge.

A review note was thereafter placed before IDBI's Executive Committee at its meeting held on August 29, 2001. The Committee felt that, in the changed context, TCOs had lost much of their relevance and it was necessary to initiate action to close the non-performing TCOs. Accordingly, IDBI had again commissioned MRCL to carry out a viability study of weak TCOs and to suggest specific measures for their revival/ closure. MRCL has since submitted its draft report and, after taking into